(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At the request of State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, three proposed sites in Itanagar namely Gumto Imchi, Banderdeva and Nirjouli village were inspected by a team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) during May, 2005. All the three sites were not found suitable for development of an airport for operation of 50 seater type of aircraft. The State Government has, accordingly, been requested to suggest alternate suitable sites for airport.

Purchase of aircraft by AI

602. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally cleared Air India's Plan of Rs. 40,000 crore fleet acquisition from U.S. Manufacturer, Boeing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that two proposals of the Air India to acquire 64 aircrafts were cleared by the Public Investment Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Investment Board in its meeting held on 13th October, 2005 has approved the proposal for acquisition of 50 aircraft by Air India and 18 aircraft by Air India Charters Limited (AICL). In accordance with guidelines on public investment these proposals will now be placed before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Amendment in Civil Aviation Requirement

603. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) are not in consonance with the recently amended Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955 and guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on duel citizenship;

(b) whether according to the Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955 as amended recently, and the guidelines of the MHA, FDI in Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines) is permitted to PIO cardholder;

(c) if so, reasons for not bringing amendments in obsolete 30 year old CAR; and

(d) steps being taken to ractify the anomaly by amending the CAR thus permitting similar dispensation to PIO cardholders as are given to NRIs in case of the FDI investment in domestic aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The existing Civil Aviation Requirements stipulate that scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operators permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/body corporate provided, *inter-alia*, that its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals. Hence, Persons of Indian Origin, who are not Indian citizens, cannot be permitted to operate air transport services in terms of the present regulatory position. However, the issue of PIO cardholders being accorded a dispensation similar to NRIs in case of FDI in Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines) will be examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

Non-Compliance of Rules by Companies

604. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two lakh companies are not abiding proper rules and regulations of Government;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government so far against the erring companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are unable to take stringent steps against the erring companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are seriously considering to adopt e-governance system for ensuring transparency and efficiency?